

## King's Children.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Now that we are again on the eve of another annual Conference the friends of the young people's work will want to know something of the thoughts of those who have been especially devoted to that department of the general Church work.

#### OUR PURPOSE.

While we have not achieved all that there is to achieve, in the line of literature for our young people, we have tried to keep this steadily in view, as one of the objects of the Kings Children society. We would like to place before our young workers larger and stronger periodicals, which will in time be done, but with the work of organization, and getting the people interested in the *distinctive purpose of the society*, our time has been so largely occupied, that we have not had opportunity to plan, and outline those features that we believe to be of first importance in the young people's work in the Brethren church. Culture is the one strong factor in any kind of civilization, and the culture of any nation, is *always* the *ripened* fruit of her *religion*, and can never be better, or purer, than the spirit and dictum, that inspires religious practice.

Christian culture, in the Brethren church, must drink from the same fountain that flowed out from the throne of God nineteen centuries ago, and those lifegiving waters, will, impart the spiritual powers, and maintain the physical conformity, in each individual that distinguished, and *must ever distinguish*, the one perfect man Christ Jesus, who is, and ever will be the heavenly father's idea of what every man, ought to be: "I am the Lord I change not" is the, *almost* last words of the old prophetic dispensation, and "the Sun of Righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings" is the closing benediction of that long school of the law, and the prophets, that ended when "John came preaching the Baptism of repentance," and announcing that "that there is standing, among you (one) who shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire,—and whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Brethren, that Gospel in the hands of the Children of God, must keep on purging, and winnowing out the chaff until every *creed* and *human device*, every human standard of righteousness, shall be set aside, and all put on the "Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh" and make no com-

promise with the adulteration of the "word which was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory, as the only begotten of the Father." Jno. 1. Our literature must have as distinctive features as those which *distinguish* our Church organization from all around us, or with the leadership of the rising generation, will occur the amalgamation, with all other denominations, which as a stroke of policy might give *temporal* strength, and *apparent* dignity, but in the end would destroy the very object, that is so dear to each of us. In order to have a commendable zeal, we must hold, and teach something that is *worthy of zealous devotion*. Let me warn you, there is nothing to be gained by lowering the standard, or diluting the leaven. Rather let us have more patience, and forbearance, and apply our talents studiously to the one purpose of being one in Christ Jesus.

#### OUR METHODS.

To bind my conscience, is to limit my powers of research, and retard the spirit of progress. Therefore our methods have been those of great liberty, in which each one has been encouraged to feel individual responsibility to the Lord, rather than to become an atom in the large body, or, conglomeration of ideas and creeds, which are becoming powers of neutralization, but it is decidedly doubtful if it is possible, to bring out of them all, the one grand idea, of unification in the doctrines of the Lord. They who would progress toward the life lived by the Lord, must not deliberately put upon themselves the shackles that have endeavored to present the independent teachings as we have found them in the Gospel. The Y. P. S. C. E. has done a large work in the world, none can gain say, and we must commend it for its zeal, and rejoice in the fruits it has born, but it has not done much to bring about more implicit obedience to the Gospel, and the spirit of, "*See how big I am*," is very conspicuous, so much so, that were we to look to their literature for what the Brethren church believes to be *genuine Christian culture*, we would be appalled by its "*bigness*" while we would *be spiritually* starved to death while struggling to get near enough its core to obtain food to feed a *faith that believes in genuine repentance and obedience to the literal commands of the Lord*. While our association with the C. E. movement, can and does give us a wide survey of the world work, and is beneficial in that sense, it can not take the place of the King's Children society which was organized for a particular purpose among our young people, and that purpose must have

for its aim the cardinal principles on which the church is founded, or in other words, it must be the young people's department of the church work. The spiritual food that is good for the one, is also good for the other. If the integrity of the church, and her membership is to be preserved, relative to doctrine, and *practice*, it must be through our young people, and we must begin in the Juniar class. Great liberty must be accorded, even the liberty of the church, which is not bound by any creed or "ism," but the plain truths of the Gospel must be the paramount object of the teaching in our King's Children societies. Upon diligent inquiry, I have not found that a distinctive pledge has been of any avail, in those societies which use a pledge, nor is it apparent that their punctuality, or standards are in any sense higher, or have produced better results, than have the simple promise, made when becoming a member of the King's Children society. Many of our King's Children societies are the largest young people's societies in the brotherhood, and are in a most flourishing condition. The constitution as it is now printed seems to meet the wish of the best, and by far the largest majority of our workers, according, as it does, to all the fullest liberty, as respects co-operation with other societies, and the use of their pledges in a local way.

#### OUR SUCCESS.

That the King's Children society has been a grand success, in every way, is plain to any one, when we see how rapidly the local churches have taken up the work, and effected organizations, until almost every church has a society. In 1893, there was known to exist only three King's Children societies, in the brotherhood, and of other societies of young people, there were but few, and when we see that at the convention at Warsaw in 1893, there was no young people's session, or program, nor does their work seem to have received any attention, or but meagre attention at most, we must rejoice at the present condition. The King's Children have had two good conventions at Ashland, O., and anticipate a better one at Warsaw this year. We have sent out more than 125 blanks to the societies this year, and are not now sure that we have reached all of them. We can not report in this article on the number of *active live* societies, as the secretary has not yet made up her report. But if we judge from the number of Topic Cards, and other requisites sold, and the number of badges sent out, we would say that the growth of the society has been greater the past year, than ever before. Notwith-